



# NEWS RELEASE

## VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

National Agricultural Statistics Service • United States Department of Agriculture

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### **COTTON, BARLEY, SOYBEAN AND HAY ACREAGE UP; TOBACCO, CORN AND WHEAT DOWN**

Virginia's cotton producers anticipate increasing acreage this year to 115,000 acres, according to the first survey conducted this season by the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service. If realized this would be the highest planted acreage on record. The current record of planted acres was 113,000 acres in 1924. Barley, showed the largest percent increase, going from 80,000 acres last year to 85,000 acres this year. Acreage intended for soybeans is expected to increase this year by 10,000 acres to 480,000 acres. Hay acres for harvest are expected to increase by 10,000 acres this year to 1,280,000 acres.

Tobacco acreage devoted to flue, burley, and dark fired will decrease in 2000 due to quota cuts and large carryover stocks. Flue-cured tobacco harvested acreage is expected to total 17,000, acres down from 26,000 acres last year and 33,000 in 1998. Burley tobacco growers are expected to harvest 9,000 acres, a decrease of 18 percent or 2,000 acres. Acres devoted to dark fired tobacco is expected to total 1,300, down from 1,500 acres in 1999. Sun acres are expected to be unchanged from last year at 100 acres.

Corn producers plan to decrease their acreage this year to 490,000 acres. This is a 10,000 acre decrease from both the 1998 and 1999 crop years. Despite this decrease, corn would still lead all crops in planted acres. Winter wheat acreage seeded last fall for harvest this spring was 240,000 acres, down 40,000 acres from last year. Peanut acreage is expected to remain unchanged from last year at 76,000 acres.

Plantings of major row crops is just beginning or is in the planning stages, however, crop prices and weather conditions may cause farmers to change their plans as the planting season progresses.

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Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture  
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## US Corn & Soybean Acres Up 1 Percent

Corn growers in the US intend to plant 77.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2000, up 1 percent from 1999, but down 3 percent from 1998. Expected acreage is down in Nebraska, the Great Lakes region, and mid-Atlantic States due mostly to dry conditions. Intended acreage is up in the central Corn Belt, northern Plains, Southeast, and West.

Soybean producers intend to plant 74.9 million acres in 2000, up 1 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area for soybeans on record. Of the 31 soybean producing states, producers in 10 States intend to plant more acres this year, while producers in 13 States intend to plant fewer acres than in 1999. Seven states are unchanged from the previous year.

All Cotton plantings for 2000 are expected to total 15.6 million acres, 5 percent above last year. If realized, this would be the largest acreage since 1995 and the second largest since 1962. Upland acreage is expected to total 15.3 million acres, up 5 percent from 1999. All 17 Upland cotton producing States intend to increase acreage from last year. Growers intend to decrease their plantings of American-Pima cotton to 217,000 acres, down 25 percent from 1999. All American-Pima cotton producing States intend to decrease acreage from last year.

Peanuts producers intend to plant 1.47 million acres of peanuts in 2000, down 4 percent from last year. Of the nine producing States, four intend to plant less acres of peanuts in 2000, three States are showing no change from 1999, and two States are expecting to plant more acres.

U.S. all tobacco area for harvest in 2000 is forecast at 500,700 acres, down 22 percent from 1999. If realized, this will be the lowest all tobacco acreage level since 1874. Large acreage reductions are expected in all Flue-cured and Light Air-cured tobacco. Flue-cured tobacco, at 253,900 acres, is 16 percent below a year ago. Flue-cured acreage, which accounts for 51 percent of this year's total tobacco acreage, is expected to hit its lowest in recorded history. Acreage in North Carolina, the leading state, is down 16 percent from last year.

Fire-cured tobacco, at 17,310 acres, is 5 percent above the 1999 acreage. Acreage intentions in Kentucky and Tennessee, the leading States, are up 7 percent. However, Virginia intentions are down 13 percent. Burley tobacco, at 207,700 acres, is down 31 percent from a year ago and below the historic low of 1986. All states show a decrease for burley tobacco harvested acres. Acreage in Kentucky, the leading state, is down 38 percent from last year.

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